

American Embassy
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

16 February 2003

Major General AbdulAziz Al-Huwairini
Ministry of Interior
Saudi Mabathith
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Subject: A news item that was broadcasted by ABC TV Network

Dear General AbdulAziz:

We would like to acknowledge and exalt the cooperation we have received from you and our esteemed Mabathith colleagues, particularly during the Hajj. We are aware of the impact of our requests on your staff during this busy period and would like to extend our deepest appreciation for your time and effort.

In Mabathith memorandum M/B/88/308F/423, dated December 19, 2002, a request was made for information clarifying the FBI's position on an ABC TV special focusing on the actions of Assistant Legal Attache Gamal Abdel-Hafiz. The attached is a statement released by the FBI to ABC TV prior to the broadcast. Unfortunately, ABC TV did not include it in their presentation. We hereby provide it to you in the hope that it will fully address your concerns.

We look forward to the continued strengthening of our amicable relationship.

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GAMAL ABDEL-HAFIZ

Assistant Legal Attache - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Assistant Legal Attache (ALAT) (Special Agent) Gamal Abdel-Hafiz has served in Riyadh since February 2001. ALAT Abdel-Hafiz has met all FBI performance standards and has successfully completed a routine and requisite re-investigation and polygraph in compliance with FBI security standards. He handles liaison with the authorities of Saudi Arabia regarding all violations handled by the FBI. ALAT Abdel-Hafiz continues to contribute positively to the FBI effort in Riyadh.

While unable to comment specifically on current investigations, ALAT Abdel-Hafiz has contributed significantly to several FBI investigations, all the while adhering to established legal guidelines. He was instrumental in the success of the case of the United States V. Sheikh Omar Abdul-Rahman, where, as a Language Specialist in the New York Division, he translated all audio and video material which was introduced into evidence in the trial. He also testified more than nineteen times during the trial. During the trial, an FBI source advised the New York division that members of a mosque in Brooklyn, N.Y., were debating as to whether to assassinate SA Abdel-Hafiz because of his involvement in the prosecution of Sheikh Abdul-Rahman. The United States Attorney's office in New York advised SA Abdel-Hafiz of the threat against his life and advised that he could withdraw from the case, which he refused to do.

In regard to the alleged refusal to wear a wire in Chicago, SA Abdel-Hafiz, while assisting in an International Terrorism investigation, was requested to meet with a subject of the investigation. Based upon his knowledge of the subject's background and the case, SA Abdel-Hafiz interposed an objection to any consensual monitoring of the meeting proposed to take place in a Chicago mosque. The final decision was made by the management of the Dallas Division and Chicago agreed to abide by his decision. SAC Dallas, Danny Deffenbaugh (now retired), concurred with SA Abdel-Hafiz's request not to conduct the consensual monitoring. SA Abdel-Hafiz proposed to meet with the individual and testify in court to contents of the meeting, but the Chicago Division decided not to exercise that option. SAC Deffenbaugh advised that had the consensual monitoring been requested for any location other than a mosque, SA Abdel-Hafiz indicated that he would have had no objections because, as an FBI agent, that would be his job. In addition, the Attorney General Guidelines regarding consensual monitoring expressly forbid such activity in a mosque or similar place of worship.